

A proposal to the Lamont Climate Center to sponsor a Workshop about past, present and future Antarctic Ice Sheet Stability

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Abstract

Antarctic ice sheets have begun to respond to climate change, but we do not understand the physics underneath those worrisome changes. Motivated by the presence of Mary Tharp Fellow Jo Johnson (BAS) and with support from the Lamont Climate Center, we are hosting an open Mini-Conference at Lamont, April 13-15, 2011, to review our scientific approaches towards this crucial problem and to address key questions such as 'what geologic data do we really need?', 'How can we collect them', and 'How would the new data progress the current Antarctic ice sheet models?'. We expect approximately 15 experts from outside Lamont and about 10 speakers from various Lamont groups and project that this workshop will create a strong foundation for new cross-cutting initiatives designed to target the growing attention and awareness at NSF, NOAA and NASA that this kind of research is getting increasingly important.